

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

Assembly Bill 2116 sets an important public policy goal for first responders in the State of California – to ensure that as future communications systems are purchased using state or federal money, that those systems support interoperability between first responder agencies. Public safety communications has historically been supported by proprietary, vendor-specific solutions, using different parts of the radio spectrum. This has resulted in agencies unable to communicate with each other. This bill sets forth the policy of the State of California to use future procurements to remedy that situation, by purchasing communications systems that will support interoperability of communications among first responders.

As existing and new technologies emerge, such as IP-based solutions, I would request the legislature to revisit this issue to ensure that first responders have the most current, efficient and interoperability public safety communications system.

First responders in California should have access to the best technology available for their communications. The bill's emphasis on interoperability is correct and I am pleased to sign it.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger